

**God's Own Community:
Violent Scripts of Contemporary Religious Communities**

Hans G. Kippenberg

The lecture addresses religious violence in the context of community formation. Ancient Jewish monotheism already contained the promise of Israel's liberation from bondage and slavery. The issue of religious violence rooted in messianic expectations returned in the confessional wars in 16th- and 17th-century Europe and became subject of modern Western reflection. Hobbes and later on Schmitt proposed to restrict religion to the private sphere and to neutralize the messianic promise of liberation and freedom.

Since the seventies of the 20th century we are confronted with succeeding religious movements fighting on a global scale against political dependence on Western powers and its culture of secularization. The lecture deals with their understanding of this dependence in terms of a threat to their community, the performance of their struggle by emulating religious models and the spread of the message of this fight by global electronic media.